

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Range Creek WMA open?

The RCWMA will open from April 15 through December 1 (weather/road conditions permitting).

Why do I have to hike in?

Access is limited to horse and foot traffic only because the road is narrow with only a few areas to pull over and park. Mechanized vehicles may damage archaeological sites and riparian habitat.

What is available for horses?

No corral or pasture is available for horses. Please bring weed-free hay.

What will I see?

You may see a variety of wildlife. Songbirds are plentiful in the riparian areas and you may see several species of raptors. Bears, mountain lions, chukars, and turkeys inhabit the canyon, as well as a few deer and elk. The canyon is rich in Fremont Indian archaeological sites. If you look carefully, you may find rock art and granaries in the cliffs. However, most of the sites are easy to miss. This is not like going to Mesa Verde or Chaco Canyon. You will find no marked trails or signs guiding you to any ruins or rock art. Remember to bring binoculars to view wildlife, rock art and granaries that may be up high in the cliffs.

Do I need a permit to go into the Range Creek WMA?

A permit is required for each person entering the RCWMA (including while hunting and fishing). The permit is valid only for the date listed on the permit. A visitor must purchase a separate permit for each day and may purchase permits for up to 5 consecutive days.

How do I get a permit?

Permits are available online. A \$5 permit processing fee is charged for each person for each day. The processing fee is to offset the costs associated with running the permit system. Permits are not available at the gate. When obtaining the permit online, choose the permit from the nonresident dropdown menu.

Why are permits required for entry into the Range Creek WMA?

Permits are required for several reasons. First, the division wants to ensure that all visitors to the RCWMA obtain enough information for a safe and satisfying trip, and that visitors are aware of the terms and conditions of use for the area. Second, the interim management plan for the RCWMA set a limit of 28 visitors per day. The permit system gives the division a way to limit the number of visitors. Third, the division will have a record of visitors to assist us in case of missing person reports, medical emergencies, violations, etc.

Do I have to carry the permit while I hike or hunt?

Yes. An officer will not know if you have a permit unless you can show it to him. Citations will be issued to persons without permits.

Why is there a limit of 28 visitors per day?

The RCWMA is a primitive area. Limiting the number of visitors helps to preserve the peaceful backcountry experience, and the fragile riparian and archaeological sites.

What about the five consecutive day visitation limit?

Five days will allow a person to spend some time exploring or hunting. Allowing unlimited visitation might prevent other people from having an opportunity.

Are there tours available?

Yes. Look on the back of this brochure for more information on commercial day tours.

Can I bring my dog into the Range Creek WMA?

Dogs are allowed but must be kept under control at all times for the protection of wildlife and archaeological sites.

Commercial Day Tour Information

We do not recommend any of them we just provide the information.

Canyonlands Field Institute

Phone # (800) 860-5262

Website Address: www.canyonlandsfieldinst.org

Carbon County Recreation

Phone # (435) 637-5092

Website Address: www.carbonrec.com

Hondoo River & Trails

Phone # (800) 332-2696

Website Address: www.hondoo.com

Southpaw Tours

Phone # (888) 249-6319

Website Address: www.southpawpublications.net

Tavaputs Ranch

Phone # (435) 637-1236 or (435) 636-5008

Website Address: www.tavaputsranch.com

Important Information

- Roads to the WMA north gate can be dangerous. Rocks can fall down onto the road and weather conditions can make the road more treacherous. Four wheel drive vehicles are recommended when traveling to WMA north gate.
- There is no drinking water, food, gas, restrooms or cell phone service available in the WMA. Pit toilets are located at the bottom of Little Horse Canyon.
- Camping is allowed outside the north gate. No camping is allowed inside the WMA.
- No fires are allowed. Fires are difficult to fight in the steep dry canyon. Also, charcoal from fires can contaminate archaeological sites. Gas stoves and lanterns are permitted.

For more information about the Range Creek WMA go to our website:

www.wildlife.utah.gov/range_creek

Phone: (435) 636-0260

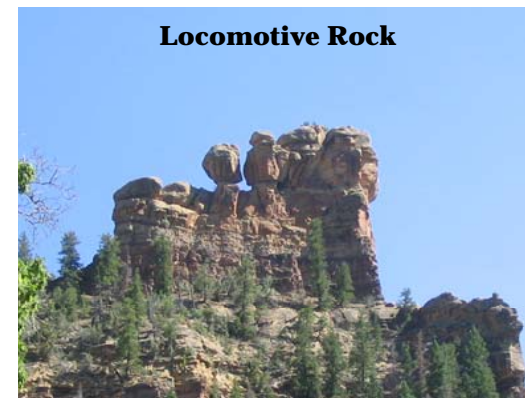
Driving Directions to Range Creek WMA:

Fifteen miles east of Price, Utah, will be the East Carbon/Sunnyside junction with Hwy 6 and UT-123. Turn east (left) on UT-123, and drive 8.5 miles (passing by East Carbon City) to junction with UT-124. Turn south (right) on UT-124, and drive 2.4 miles where you come to an intersection, continue south on UT-124 (DO NOT GO TO COLUMBIA). Go 5.4 miles to another intersection, do not turn right, this will take you back to Hwy 6. Go straight ahead into the canyon (towards the mountains) to Horse Canyon Mine, brick buildings. .9 of a mile after the mine buildings, there will be a fork in the road, take a left (at the Range Creek sign). Continue on approximately 8.9 miles until you reach the north gate. Walk through the foot access gate and walk down canyon to enter the Range Creek WMA.

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Range Creek Wildlife Management Area

Locomotive Rock



Hidden in the Book Cliffs of Carbon and Emery Counties west of the Tavaputs Plateau and the Green River, Range Creek valley was once the site of numerous Fremont Indian villages. Until recently, this remote canyon was private property and was off-limits to the general public. Because of its isolation, the thousand-year-old Fremont Indian artifacts are numerous and well preserved. Recently, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources obtained ownership to this remarkable area and they have implemented a policy of limited public access.

The Range Creek Wildlife Management Area is nothing like Mesa Verde. Archaeological sites in Range Creek are scattered, obscure and difficult for most people to locate. There are no marked trails and no signs to guide visitors to any sites.

Range Creek is a non-contiguous tract of land comprised of a series of 40-acre parcels totaling approximately 1,590 acres along Range Creek. There are some portions of BLM, SITLA and private lands.

The purpose of land ownership by the DWR is to protect wildlife experiences consistent with other DWR goals; however, the DWR is not indifferent to public, historical and archaeological interests.

How did the Division of Wildlife Resources acquire the Range Creek property?

In December 2001, after 50 years in the canyon, Waldo Wilcox and the United States of America agreed to a purchase price and the ranch was transferred to the BLM. The purchase was partially funded through a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisition culminating on December 11, 2001.

The State of Utah was required to provide one-half of the purchase price of the property, then the property would be conveyed to the State of Utah, "for management by the State Division of Wildlife Resources for wildlife habitat and public access." Therefore, it was necessary to generate state funding for the purchase. The purchase occurred as a result of a considerable amount of negotiation and coordination that occurred between Waldo Wilcox, Trust for Public Land, the Congressional delegation, the State of Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Quality Growth Commission, and the BLM Washington and Utah State Offices.

The Trust for Public Land took over negotiations on behalf of the state. After further negotiations and a second appraisal in January 2001 that valued the property at \$2,500,000, Mr. Wilcox agreed to sell the property for \$2,500,000. Due to the reduction in cost, the state was allowed to provide \$500,000 toward the purchase to finalize the deal, rather than original mandated "one-half of the purchase price."

The state generated the funds for the purchase through the LeRay McAllister Fund, administered by the Utah Quality Growth Commission and the Forest Legacy Funds distributed to the state by the U.S. Forest Service for conservation and forest management practices on private lands. These funding sources required a conservation easement on the property. The conservation easement is held jointly by the Utah Department of Agriculture & Food, and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.



Wildlife in Range Creek



Looking down into Little Horse Canyon from the top of Horse Canyon



Before entering the WMA gate you can see a petroglyph called the Tripod man



Granary on top of Locomotive Rock



Pictographs in Alcove



Nelson Canyon—Petroglyph



Turn of the century cabin at Ranch